

43 YEARS IN A LIGHTHOUSE

Passing of Miss Harriet Colfax
Recalls Her World Record for
Continuous Service — She Remained Loyal to Girlhood Ro-
mance.

ROMANTIC SPECIAL.
St. Louis, April 28.—With a record of forty-three consecutive years as keeper of the Michigan City (Ind.) Lighthouse, the longest record of continuous service of any lighthouse in the employ of the United States Government, Miss Harriet E. Colfax is dead. During the entire period of her service this woman keeper of the guidance light for lake mariners never failed in the performance of her duty, and when failing health last fall compelled her to resign from the post she had held so long she received from the Lighthouse Board at Washington a voluntary expression of the esteem which her faithful courage had commanded in the department.

Miss Colfax was a cousin of Schuyler Colfax, then Vice-President of the United States, and it was through the efforts of her distinguished relative that she received the appointment of lighthouse keeper at Michigan City. That was in May, 1861, and since serving the administration through successive Administrations, successively strong or feeble, in sickness and in health, Miss Colfax attended to her duties for a brief time with an assistant, but for the most part with only the aid of her mother, her beloved companion, Miss Ann Hartwell, who lived with her at the lighthouse and who died a week before Miss Colfax during almost the entire space of thirty-five years until two weeks ago, when she passed out of the world forever.

A ROMANTIC ATTACHMENT.

The story of the lifelong companionship of these two elderly maiden ladies begins with the biography of Miss Colfax. It is not about the story of a beautiful attachment, but there are the elements of romance in the record of their early youth and both were handsome when they became companions, and were with the two young men, young brothers, men of Michigan City. The record of the two young couples was plighted and Miss Colfax and Miss Hartwell were to have been married, but the two brothers before the consummation of their plans both passed away. Presently drawn to each other, Miss Colfax was given the post of lighthouse keeper and Miss Hartwell, a teacher of the first school in Michigan City, became the wife of the lonely little yellow brick house on the rocks of Sister Sister Shores, overlooking the Lake Michigan. Miss Hartwell gave over her beloved adopted home to the women then two both of small stature, lived together, setting the light and advertising the position, left to the lot of each until the day when the two brothers died and they were compelled to leave the home they had known so long. Then but a few days later came the final earthly separation, with it was but a brief duration.

Miss Colfax mourned the loss of her beloved friend, but the record of Miss Hartwell abundantly justified the faith of the faithful little woman. In her spirit she agreed for her departed friend to be buried in the same grave, and with the one who had known her best, that any extra person she might represent to her all that she had known in the four master years of home life.

Miss Ann is here—here. In this room, Miss Dallas would say. Then, as she is seated in her chair, her statement she would cry aloud for her beloved comrade. "Darling, I wish you were here again," she said. "I am a widow now, but the light still burns before me, and the light which had burned brightly for so many years went out, and her soul still abides with the one who had known her best." She knew that any extra person she might represent to her all that she had known in the four master years of home life.

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old lighthouse, then new, for it was built in 1866, and assumed the task of keeping the light shining brightly as a guide to mariners. The coast of Lake Michigan is a rocky shore, and the point for vessels than it is in any other place in the world. The one square tower on top of the light-house, which is a tall, high sand formation just within the harbor, a new and modern lighthouse has been built, with which are connected a fog station and a light station, and throughout the entire days and throughout Miss Colfax's incumbency of the position of lighthouse keeper, beacon lights were kept burning, night and day. When the first became lighthouse it was Miss Colfax's duty to keep these lights trimmed and lighted at night. They were very small, and the old lighthouse, which was made of timber, was in 1866, a severe gale was blowing. The little lighthouse made her way to the sea on the waves, and when she reached the shore she strangled herself in the touch of the water until she reached the unburned light and started it going. She had just left the light to begin her return journey when the waves struck the old lighthouse, and the tower tumbled over into the lake, so strong was the force of the gale.

Some time later the work of caring for the old lighthouse was taken in the hands of the harbor superintendent, thus lightening considerably the duties of Miss Colfax. It was the reason of this change that she became a widow, for she died in 1888, at the age of 88 years, which she had reached when her recognition was won in her octogenary.

COMMENDED FOR SERVICE.

In 1882 the inspector of the Ninth Light- house District, then Commander, and now Rear Admiral J. C. Watson, U. S. N., asked authority from the Lighthouse Board to employ temporary assistant keeper at old Miss Colfax. The board in granting the request took occasion to say that since she had assumed the duties of her post in 1861, she had performed them in a most satisfactory manner.

At the time of her retirement last fall the board took the unusual course of sending a letter of commendation to her son, Miss Colfax, and after quoting these references to her record, and expressing appreciation for her long and faithful services, closed with the following words:

"This is a record of which you may well be proud, which enables the board to thus commend your mother, the member in whom you performed the duties of the position you filled for so many years."



Suffered from Brain Fag.

N. D. PONNAY, Portland, Ore.
President International
Printing and Freemasons' Union for U. S. and Canada, writes:
"I have been suffering from a weak back and kidney trouble for some time and have been able to find relief only through the use of Peruna. It is not about the story of a beautiful attachment, but there are the elements of romance in the record of their early youth and both were handsome when they became companions, and were with the two young men, young brothers, men of Michigan City. The record of the two young couples was plighted and Miss Colfax and Miss Hartwell were to have been married, but the two brothers before the consummation of their plans both passed away. Presently drawn to each other, Miss Colfax was given the post of lighthouse keeper and Miss Hartwell, a teacher of the first school in Michigan City, became the wife of the lonely little yellow brick house on the rocks of Sister Sister Shores, overlooking the Lake Michigan. Miss Hartwell gave over her beloved adopted home to the women then two both of small stature, lived together, setting the light and advertising the position, left to the lot of each until the day when the two brothers died and they were compelled to leave the home they had known so long. Then but a few days later came the final earthly separation, with it was but a brief duration.

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Pe-ru-na for Kidney Trouble.

Mr. M. Broderick, Financial Secretary Stable Employees' Union No. 361, Chicago, Ill., writes:

"I have been suffering from a weak back and kidney trouble for some time and have been able to find relief only through the use of Peruna.

"During the winter season I usually keep a bottle of your medicine in the house, and by taking a dose at night I am feeling fine the next morning.

"Some of my friends assure me that Peruna is equally as good for their various ailments as it is for my complaint. I do know that for kidney trouble and suffering from a weak back it has no equal."

Good health is an absolute necessity with these people. Invalidism is not compatible with success.

There is no one thing so disastrous to the laboring man as asthma in some phase of form.

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It not only becomes his household remedy for that multitude of family ailments dependent upon the vicissitudes of climate but it becomes his own remedy whenever asthma in any form begins to manifest itself.

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It restored my strength, increased my appetite and gradually restored me to perfect health."

"I was advised to use Peruna, soon found it brought a wonderful change in my entire system. It cleared up the sluggish channels of my digestive organs and assisted nature in relieving itself of waste."

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A Victim of Worry and Overwork Restored by Pe-ru-na.

Mr. William J. Berger, Moran Bros. Ship Yard, Seattle, Wash., President Protective Fund of Engineers, writes:

"I have been suffering from a weak heart, which distressed me greatly. I took pills and other medicines daily, but found that as soon as I stopped I was worse off than ever.

"Being advised to use Peruna, soon found it brought a wonderful change in my entire system. It cleared up the sluggish channels of my digestive organs and assisted nature in relieving itself of waste."

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